

E 127 Samuel Checkley - 1695

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Memoria Wilsoniana.

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O R,  
Some DUES

Unto  
The MEMORY of the  
Truly  
Reverend & Renowned  
Mr. JOHN WILSON,

The First  
PASTOR of Boston : Who Expired  
*August. 7. 1667. Aged, 79.*

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Paid by COTTON MATHER.

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*Solus Honor Merito, qui datur,  
ille datur.*

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Printed for and Sold by Michael Perry,  
at his Shop under the West-End of the  
Town House in Boston, in N.E. 1695.

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T O

Edward Bromfield *Esq.*

Sir,

INASMUCH as 'tis by *Your* Desire and Expence,  
that the *Monument*, which I had Prepared  
for the Memory of Your Grandfather  
WILSON, becomes *Eternal*, I now In-  
be it unto *You*, with my Hearty Prayers,  
t Your *Children*, may Long Live to In-  
fit the *Blessings* and *Vertues*, of such a Re-  
nowned Ancestor: And Subscribe *my self*,

Sincerely *Yours*,

C. Mather.



*Memoria* WILSONIANA

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THE LIFE

OF

MR. JOHN WILSON

S. I. **S**UCH is the Natural Tendency  
in Humane Minds to Poetry  
That, as tis Observed, the Roman  
Historian, in the very first Line  
of his History, fell upon a Verse,  
*Urbem Romam, In Principio Reges habuere*;  
So, the Roman Orator, though a very Mean Poet  
yet making an Oration for a Good One, could not  
let his First Sentence pass him, without a perfect  
Hexameter,

*In Qua me non Inficior mediocriter Esse.*

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I, therefore, I were not of all men the most  
poetical, my Reader might now Expect an  
entertainment altogether in *Verse* ; for I am go-  
ing to Write the *Life* of that *New-English* Divine,  
who had so nimble a Faculty of putting his De-  
vout thoughts into *Verse*, that he Signalized him-  
self by the Greatest *Frequency*, perhaps, that ever  
was used, of sending *Poems*, to All Persons, in  
all Places, on All Occasions ; and upon this, as  
well as upon Greater Accounts, was a *David* un-  
der the *Flocks* of our Lord in the *Wilderness* :

*Quicquid tentabat Dicere, Versus erat ;*

Wherein, if the *Curious* Relished the *Piety* some-  
times rather than the *Poetry*, the Capacity of the  
Work, therein to be accommodated, must be Con-  
sidered. But I intend no further Account of this  
Letter, than what is given by his Worthy Son,  
Reprinting at *Boston* in the year, 1680 the *Verses*  
of his Father, upon the Famous Deliverances of  
the *English Nation*, Printed at *London*, as long a-  
go as the year 1626 ) Whose Words are, *What*  
*summs hath he Penned, for the help of Others, in*  
*several Changes of Condition ? How was his*  
*heart full of Good Matter ? And his Verses past,*  
*to the Handkerchiefs carried from Paul, to up-*  
*hold the Disconsolate, & Heal their Wounded Souls ?*  
or indeed this is the *Least Thing*, that we have  
Relate of that *Great Saint* ; and accordingly,  
it



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it is under a more Considerable Character, I must now Exhibit him, Even, as a Father of the Infant Colonies of *New-England*.

**S. 2.** Mr. John Wilson, descending from Eminent Ancestors, was Born at *Winfor* in the Wonderful Year 1588. The Third Son of *William Wilson*, a Prebend of *St. Pauls*, of *Rochester* and of *Winfor*, and Rector of *Gliff*: having for his Mother, a Niece of Dr. *Edmund Grindall*, the most Worthily Renowned Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*. His exact Education under his Parents, which betimes Tinged him with an Aversion to Vice, and above all, to the very shadow of a *Lye*, fitted him to Undergoe the further Education, which he received in *Eaton Colledge* under *Udal* (and *Langely*) whom now we may Venture, after *Poor Tom. Tusser*, to call, *The Sweetest of Men*. Here he was most Remarkably Twice Delivered from Drowning; but at his Book, he made such Proficiency, that while he was the Least Boy in the School, he was made Propositor; and when the Duke of *Biron*, Embassador from the French King *Henry IV.* Queen *Elizabeth*, Visited the School, he made Latin Oration, for which the Duke bestowed Three Angels upon him. After four years Continuance at *Eaton*, he was Removed unto *Cambridge*, between the Fourteenth and Fifteenth year of his Age; and Admitted into *Kings Colledge*.



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the year 1602. When he came to stand for Fellowship in that Colledge, his Antipathy to the Horrid Wickednesses, whereto a Detestable Wretch that had been Acquainted with him, could have betray'd him, caused that Malicious Wretch by Devised and Accursed Slanders to bring so far the Reputation of this Chast Youth with the other Fellows, that had not the Provost, who was a Serious and a Reverend Person, interposed for him, he had utterly lost his Privilege; which now by the Major Vote he Obtained. But this Affliction put him upon many thoughts and Prayers before the Lord.

§. 3. He had hitherto been, according to his Good Education, very Civilly and Soberly Disposed: but being by the Good Hand of God, led unto the Ministry of such Holy men as Mr. Jains, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Chaderton, he was by their sermons Enlightened and Awakened, unto more solicitous Enquiries after, The One Thing yet Lacking in him. The Serious Dispositions of his Mind, were now such, that besides his pursuance after the Works of Repentance in himself, he took no little pains to pursue it in others; especially the Malefactors in the Prisons, which he Visited with Devout, Sedulous, and Successful Industry. Nevertheless, being foretalled with Prejudices against the Puritans of those Times, as if they had held, he knew not well what Odd Things, he Declined

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Declined *Their* Acquaintance ; although his Good Conversation had made him to be accounted One of them, *Himself*. Until going unto a Booksellers Shop to Augment his Well-furnisht Library he Lit upon that Famous Book of Mr. Richard Rogers, called, *The Seven Treatises* ; which, which he had Read, he so Affected, not only the Matter, but also the Author of the Book, that he took a Journey unto *Wethersfield*, on purpose to hear a Sermon, from that Boanerges. When he heard the Heavenly Passages that fell from the Lips of that Worthy Man, *Privately*, as well *Publickly*, and compared therewithal the Writings of *Greenham*, of *Dod*, and of *Dent*, especially of *Path way to Heaven*, Written by the Author mentioned, he saw that *They* who were Nicknamed *Puritans*, were like to be the *Desirabest* Company for One that intended his own Everlasting Happiness ; and pursuant unto the Advice, which he had from Dr. Ames, he associated himself with a Pious Company in the University, who kept their Meetings in Mr. *Wilsons* Chamber, for *Prayer*, *Fasting*, *Holy Conference*, and the Exercises of true Devotion.

S. 4. But now, perceiving many Good men to Scruple many of the Rites, Practised and imposed in the Church of England, he furnished himself with all the Books, that he could find Written on the Case of Conformity, both *Pro*



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, and pondered with a most Conscientious  
liberation; the Arguments on both sides pro-  
ced. He was hereby so convinced of the E-  
in *Conformity*, that at Length, for his Obser-  
able Omission, of certain Uninstituted Ceremo-  
in the Worship of God, the Bishop of *Lincoln*,  
en Visiting the University, pronounced upon  
in the Sentence of *Quindenum*, that is, That, be-  
les other Mortifications, he must within *Fifteen*  
yes, have been *Expelled*, if he continued in his  
ffence. His Father, being hereof Advised, with  
Paternal Affection, Wrote unto him to *Con-*  
*firm*; and at the same Time, interceded with  
le Bishop, that he might have a Quarter of a  
ear allowed him; in which time, if he could  
ot be Reduced, he should then leave his *Fellow-*  
p in the Colledge. Hereupon he sent him un-  
several *Doctors* of Great Fame, to get his Ob-  
ctions Resolved; but when much *Discourse*, and  
much *Writing*, had passed between them, he was  
rather the more confirmed in his Principles a-  
out *Church Reformation*. Wherefore his Father,  
then diverting him from the Designs of the *Mi-*  
*nistry*, disposed him to *the Inns of Court*; where  
he fell into Acquaintance with some Young Gen-  
emen, who associated with him in constant  
ercises of Devotion; to which Meetings the  
Repeated Sermons of Dr. *Gouge* were a continual  
Entertainment: and here it was, that he came  
to the Advantageous Knowledge of the Learn-  
ed



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ed *Sculptetus*, Chaplain to the Prince. Palatine  
the *Rhine*, then making some stay in *England*.

§. 5. When he had continued Three ye  
at the *Inns of Court*, his Father discerning his I  
position to be a *Minister* of the Gospel, permit  
his Proceeding *Master of Arts*, in the Univer  
of *Cambridge*; but Advised him to Address a  
ther *Colledge*, than that, where he had forme  
met with *Difficulties*. Dr. *Cary*, who was th  
Vice-Chancellour, understanding his former C  
cumstances, would not Admit him without S  
*scription*: but he refused to *Subscribe*. In this D  
treis he Repaired unto his Father, at whose Ho  
there happened then to be present, the Count  
of *Bedfords* Chief Gentleman, who had Busin  
with the Earl of *Northampton*, the Chancellour  
the University. And this Noble Person up  
the Information, which that Gentleman gave h  
of the matter, presently Wrote a Letter to t  
Vice Chancellour on the Behalf of our You  
*Wilson*; whereupon he received his Degree, a  
continued a while after this, in *Emanuel Colledge*  
from whence he made frequent and useful Vi  
unto his Friends, in the Counties adjoining, a  
became further fitted for his Intended Servi  
But while he was passing under these Chang  
he took up a *Resolution*, which he thus expre  
before the Lord; *That if the Lord would Gra*  
*him a Liberty of Conscience, with Purity of Worsh*

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would be content, yea, thankful, though it were at  
furthest End of the World. A most Pro-  
etical Resolution !

§. 6. At Length, Preaching his first Ser-  
mon at New Port ; he set his Hand unto that Plough  
whence he never afterwards Looked Back :  
not very long after which, his Father lying on  
his Death Bed, he kneeled, in his Turn, before  
him, for his Blessing, and brought with him for  
his share in that Blessing, the Virtuous Young Gen-  
tlewoman, the Daughter of the Lady Mansfield  
Widow of Sir John Mansfield Master of the  
Chancery and the Queens Surveyor ) whom he  
designed afterwards to Marry : Whereupon the  
old Gentleman said, Ah, John, I have taken much  
trouble about thee, such time as thou wast in the Uni-  
versity, because thou wouldest not Conform ; I would  
have brought thee to some higher Preferment,  
when thou hast yet attained unto : I see thy Conscience  
is very Scrupulous, concerning some things that have  
been Observed and Imposed in the Church : Never-  
theless, I have Rejoyced to see the Grace and Fear of  
God, in thy Heart ; and seeing thou hast kept a Good  
Conscience hitherto, and walked according to thy Light,  
to Do still ; and Go by the Rules of Gods Holy Word :  
The Lord Bless thee, and her, whom thou hast chosen  
to be the Companion of thy Life ! Among other  
places, where he now Preached, Moreclake was  
One ; where his Non-Conformity exposed him to  
the



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the Rage of *Persecution* ; but by the *Friendship* the Justice, namely Sir *William Bird*, a Kinsman of his Wife, and by a *Mistake* of the Informer the Rage of that Storm was moderated.

S. 7. After this, he Lived as a Chaplain Successively in Honourable and Religious Families ; and, at last, was Invited unto the House of the most Pious Lady *Scudamore*. Here Mr. *Wilson* observing the Discourse of the Gentry at the Table, on the *Lords-Day*, to be too Disagreeable unto the Devout Frame to be maintained such a Day, at Length he Zealously stood up at the Table, with Words to this purpose, I make bold to Speak a Word or Two ; This is *Lords Holy Day*, and we have been hearing His Word and after the Word Preached, every One should think and speak about such Things, as have been Delivered in the Name of God ; and not Lavish out the Time in Discourses about *Hawkes & Hounds*. Whereupon a Gentleman then present, made this Handsome and Civil Answer, Sir, Wee Deserve all of us to be thus Reproved by you ; This is, indeed, the Sabbath Day, & we should, surely, have better Discourse ; hope, it will be a Warning to us. Notwithstanding this, the next *Lords-Day*, the Gentry at the Table were at their Old Notes ; which caused Mr. *Wilson* again to tell them, That the Flowers which they Talkt of, were the Birds, that Picked the seed of the Word, after the Sowing of it ;



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ray'd them, That their Talk might be of such things, as might Sanctify the Day, and Edify their evn Souls ; which caused the former Gentleman Renew his former Thankfulness for the Admonition. But Mr. Leigh the Ladys Husband, was very angry ; whereof when the Lady advised Mr. Wilson, wishing him to say something, that might Satisfy him, he Replyed, Good Madam, I know not wherein I have given any just Offence ; and therefore, I know of no Satisfaction that I owe : Your Ladyship has Invited me to Preach the Good Word of God among you ; and so I have endeavoured according to my Ability : Now such Discourse as this, in the Lords Day, is Profane & Disorderly : If your Husband Like me not, I will be gone. When the Lady informed her Husband how Peremptory Mr. Wilson was, in this matter, he mended his countenance and Carriage ; and the Effect of this Reproof was, that unsuitable Discourse, on the Lords Day, was cured among them.

**S. 8.** Removing from this Family, after he had been, a while at Henly, he continued for three years together, Preaching at Four Places, Turns, which lay near one another, on the edges of Suffolk, namely Bumsted, Stoke, Clare, and Sandish. Here, some of Sudbury happening to hear him, they Invited him to Succeed the Eminent Old Mr. Jenkins, with which Invitation, he cheerfully complied, and the more cheerfully because

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cause of his Opportunity to be near Old Mr. Richard Rogers, from whom afterwards when Dying, Received a *Blessing* among his Children ; yea, encourage his Acceptance of this Place, the very Reader of the Parish did *Subscribe*, with many Scores of others, their Desires of it ; and yet he accepted not the *Pastoral Charge* of the Place without a Solemn Day of Prayer with Fasting ( wherein the Neighbouring Ministers assisted at his Election : Great notice was now taken of the Success, which God gave unto his Labour in this Famous Town ; among other Instances whereof, One was this. A Tradesman much given to Stealing, as well as other Profane and Vicious Practices, One Day seeing People flock to Mr. Wilsons Lecture, thought with himself, *Why should I Tarry at Home to Work, when so many Go to Hear a Sermon ?* Wherefore, for the sake of Company he went unto the Lecture too ; but when he came, he found a Sermon, as it were, particularly Directed unto himself, on Eph. 4. 28. *Let him that hath Stole, Steal no more ;* and such was the Impression thereof upon his Heart, that, from that Time, he became a Changed and Pious man.

S. 9. But if, they that will Live Godlily must Suffer Persecution, a Peculiar share of it must fall upon them, who are Zealous and Useful Instruments to make others Live so. Mr. Wilson had a share of this Persecution ; and one A---n, was Princip



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Principal Author of it. This *A---n* had formerly been an Apprentice in *London*, Where the Shops detened him some years, under an hard imprisonment, because he Refused the Oath *ex officio*, which was pressed upon him to tell, *Whether he had never heard his Master Pray against the Bishop?* The Charity of Well Disposed People now Supported him, till he got abroad, Recommended by his Hard Sufferings, unto the Good Affections of the *Puritans*, at whose Meetings he became so Conversant, and thereupon such a forward and zealous Professor, that, at Length he took upon him, under the Confidence of some *Matinity*, whereof he was Owner, to be a Sort of Preacher among them. This man would Revere Mr. *Wilson* as his Father, and yet upon the Provocation of seeing Mr. *Wilson* more highly Valued and Hououred, than himself, he not only became a *Conformist* himself, but also, as *Apostates* use to be, a Malignant and Violent Persecutor of those, from whom he had *Apostatized*. By his means, Mr. *Wilson* was put unto Trouble in the *Bishops Courts*; from whence his Deliverance was, at Length Obtained by certain *Powerful Mediators*. And once by his Tricks the most noted Purservant of those Times, was employed for the Siezing of Mr. *Wilson*; but though he Siezed upon many scores of the People coming from the Lecture, he Dismissed the rest, because he could not meet with Mr. *Wilson* himself, who by a Special Providence,



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dence, went out of his direct way, to Visit  
Worthy Neighbour, and so escaped this *Mighty*  
*Hunter*. Afterwards an Eminent Lady, happen-  
ing Innocently to make some Comparison be-  
tween the Preaching of Mr. *Wilson*, and one D.  
B. of B. the Angry Doctor presently applied him-  
self unto the Bishop of *London*, who for a while  
*Suspended* him. And when that Storm was over,  
he with several other Worthy Ministers, came  
to be wholly Silenced, in another, that was Raised  
upon Complaints made by one Mr. *Bird*, unto  
the Bishop of *Norwich* against them. Concern-  
ing this *Ill Bird*, there happened one passage  
hereupon, which had in it something Extraordi-  
nary. Falling very Sick, he had the help of  
Famous and Skillful Physician, One Dr. *Duke*  
*Colchester*; who having left his Patient, in his  
Opinion, safely Recovered, gave Mr. *Wilson*  
Visit with an Account of it. Recovered! Said  
Mr. *Wilson*; You are mistaken Mr. Doctor, He's  
Dead man! The Doctor answered, If ever I re-  
covered a Sick man in my Life, that man is Recov-  
ered: but Mr. *Wilson* replied, No, Mr. Doctor, He's  
a Dead man, he shall not Live; Mark my Words.  
The Doctor smiled; but for all that, before they  
parted, the News was brought them, that the  
man was Dead indeed, and, The Lord known by  
Judgment, which He Executed. But at last, Mr.  
*Wilson* obtained from the truly Noble Earl of  
*Warwick*, to Sign a Letter, which the Earl b

his

himself to draw up, unto the Bishop; on his behalf; by the Operation of which Letter, his Liberty, for the Exercise of his Ministry, was again secured. This Bishop was the Well known Dr. *Worsley*, who a Little while after this, Travelling northward, upon Designs of mischief against the re-forming Pastors and Christians there, certain Ministers of the South set apart a Day, for Solemn fasting and Prayer to Implore the Help of Heaven, against those Designs; and on that very Day, he was taken with a Sore and an odd Fit, which caused him to stop at a Blind House of Entertainment on the Road, where he suddenly Dyed.

*S. 10.* At Last, being Persecuted in One Country, he must Flee into another. The Plantation of New-English Colony was begun; And Mr. *Wilson*, with some of his Neighbours, Embarked themselves in the Fleet, which came over thither the year 1630. Where he applied himself with the Vigour Imaginable, to Encourage the poor people, under the Difficulties of their New Plantation. This Good People buried near Two hundred of their Number, within a Quarter of year after their first Landing; which caused Mr. *Wilson* particularly to Endeavour their Consolation, by Preaching on *Jacobs* not being distressed by the Death of his dearest Friends in the way, when God had called him to Remove. And how Remarkably, perhaps I might say, Ex-

cessively,



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cessively, Liberal he was in Employing his Estate for the Relief of the Needy, Every such One beheld him, as to Reckon him, *The Father of the* all : Yea, the poor *Indians* themselves also tasted of his *Bounty*. If it were Celebrated, as the Glory of *Bellarmino*, that he would Sell his Goods & convert them into *Alms* for the poor, yea, that *Quadam Die proprium Atramentarium Argentebulum ut ditaret Inopes, inter pignora obligavit*, our *Mr. Wilson*, though a greater Disclaimer of *Merit*, than *Bellarmino* was, not only in his Writings, but on his Death-bed it self, yet came not behind *Bellarmino* for the Extension of his *Charity*. To give *Instances* of his, even over-doing *Liberality*, would be to do it *Injuries* ; for indeed they were Innumerable ; He acted as if the Primitive Agreement of having *All Things in Common*, had been of all things the most Agreeable unto him. I shall Sum up all in the Lines of an Elegant Elegy, which *Mr. Samuel Bache*, an Ingenious Merchant made upon him, at his Death ;

*When as the Poor want Succour, where is he  
Can say, all can be said, Extempore ?  
Vie with the Lightning, & melt down to th' quick  
Their Souls, & make themselves their Pockets pick  
Where's such a Leader, thus has got the Slight  
To teach holy Hands to War, Fingers to Fight  
Their Arrow hit ? Bowels to Bowels Meant it,  
God, Christ, and Saints accept, but Wilson sent it  
Which*



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Which way so ere the Propositions move,  
The Ergo of his Syllogisms LOVE.  
So Bountiful to all: But if the Poor  
Was Christian too, *Ali's Money went, and more,*  
*His Coat, Rug, Blanket, Gloves; he thought their due*  
*Was all his Money, Garments, One of Two.*

But he was most set upon the Main Business  
of this New-Plantation; which was, To Settle, and  
enjoy the Ordinances of the Gospel, and Worship the  
Lord Jesus Christ according to His own Institutions;  
and accordingly, He, with the Governour, and  
others that came with him on the same Account,  
combined into a Church-State, with all Conve-  
nient Expedition.

S. II. Mr. Wilsons Removal to New-England,  
was rendred the more Difficult, by the Indisposi-  
tion of his Dearest Consort thereunto; but he  
hoping, that according to a Dream, which he had  
before his coming hither, That he saw here a little  
Temple, rising out of the Ground, which by Degrees  
increased into very high and large Dimensions, the  
Lord had a Temple to build in these Regions;  
resolved never to be Discouraged from his Un-  
dertaking. Wherefore, having first sent over an  
Encouraging Account of the Good Order, both  
civil and Sacred, which now began to be Esta-  
blished in the Plantation, he did himself Return  
to England, that he might further pursue the  
Effects

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Effect thereof ; and accordingly he made it his Business, wherever he came, to Draw as many Good men, as he could, into this Country, with him. His *Wife* remained unperswadeable, upon Prayer with *Fasting* before the Almighty *Turner of Hearts*, he Received an Answer, in becoming Willing to accompany him over the *Ocean* into a *Wilderness*. A very sorrowful Parting they now had from their Old Friends at *Sudbury*, but a Safe, and a Quick Passage over the *Atlantic* ; and whereas the Church of *Boston*, observing that he Arrived not, at the Time expected, had set apart a *Day of Humiliation* on his behalf, his Joyful Arrival before the Day, caused them to turn it into a *Day of Thanksgiving*. Mrs. *Wilson* being thus perswaded over, into the Difficulties of an *American* Depart, I have heard that her Kinsman, Old Mr. *Dod*, for her Consolation under those Difficulties, did send her a Present, with an *Advice*, which had in it, something of *Curiosity*. He sent her, at the same Time a *Brass Counter*, a *Silver Crown*, and a *Gold Jacobus* ; all of them severally wrapped up : With this Instruction unto the Gentleman who carried it ; That he should first of all Deliver only the *Counter*, and if She Received it with any Show of Discontent he should then take no further Notice of her : but if She gratefully Resented that *Small Thing*, for the sake of the Hand it came from, he should then go on to deliver the



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ver, and so the Gold : But withal assure her, at such would be the Dispensations of God unto her, and the other Good People of New-England : If they would be Content, and Thankful, with such Little things, as God at first bestow'd upon them, they should Time, have Silver and Gold Enough. Mrs. Wilson accordingly, by her Cheerful Entertainment of the Least Remembrance from Good Old Mr. [unclear], gave the Gentleman, Occasion to go through, with his whole Present, and the annexed Advice, which hath in a Good measure been accomplished.

S. 12. It was not long before Mr. Wilsons return to England once more, was oblig'd by the death of his Brother, whose Will, because it bequeathed a Legacy of a Thousand Pounds unto New England, gave Satisfaction unto our Mr. Wilson, though it was otherwise Injurious unto himself. A tedious and Winter Voyage he now had ; being Twice forced into Ireland, where first at Galloway, then at Kingsale, afterwards at Brandon Bridge, he Occasionally, but Vigorously and Successfully Served the Kingdom of God. At last, he got safe among his Old Friends, at Sudbury ; according to the Prediction, which he had let Fall in his Former Farewel unto them, *may be John Wilson may come and see Sudbury once again !* From whence, Visiting Mr. Nathaniel Rogers at Affington, where he Arrived before their



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their *Morning-Prayers*, Mr. Rogers asked him, say something upon the *Chapter* that was Read, which happened then to be the first *Chapter*, the first Book of *Chronicles* : and from a Paragraph of meer *Proper Names*, that seemed altogether *Barren* of any Edifying matter, he Raised many Fruitful and Useful Notes, that a Pious Person then present, amazed thereat, could have no Rest, without going over into *America* after him. Having dispatched his Affairs in *England*, he again Embarked for *New-England*, in Company with Four Ministers, and near Two Hundred Passengers, whereof some were Persons of Considerable Quality ; but they had all been tormented by a Large Leak sprang in the Ship, if God had not, on a Day of Solemn Fasting and Prayer, kept on board for that purpose, mercifully Discovers this Dangerous Leak unto them.

S. 13. That *Phoenix* of his Age, Dr. Ames would say, That if he might have his Option of the best Condition, that he could Propound unto himself on this side Heaven, it would be, that he might be the Teacher of a Congregational Church, where Mr. Wilson, should be the Pastor. This Happiness of this Priviledge, now had Mr. Cotton in the Church of Boston. But Satan Envious at the Prosperity of that Flourishing Church, raised a Storm of Antinomian and Familistical Errors, which had like to have thrown all into an Irrecoverable

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confusion, if the Good God had not Remarkably Blessed the Endeavours of a Synod ; and Mr. Wilson, for a while, met with hard measure for his Early Opposition to those Errors, until by the Help of that Synod, the Storm was Weathered out. At the Beginning of that Assembly, after much Discourse against the Unscriptural Enthusiasms and Revelations, then by some contended for, Mr. Wilson proposed, *You that are against these things, and that are for the Spirit and the Word together, hold up your Hands !* And the Multitude of Hands then held up, was a Comfortable and Encouraging Introduction unto the other Proceedings. At the Conclusion of that Assembly, a Catalogue of the Errors to be Condemned, was produced ; Whereof, when One asked, *What shall be done with them ?* The wonted Zeal of Mr. Wilson made this Blunt Answer, *Let them Go to the Devil of Hell, from whence they came !* In the midst of these Temptations also, he was by a Lot, chosen to Accompany the Forces, then sent forth upon an Expedition against the Pequod Indians ; which he did with so much Faith and Joy, that he professed himself as fully Satisfied, that God would give the English a Victory over those Enemies, as if he had seen the Victory already obtained. And the whole Country Quickly shared with him in the Consolations of that Remarkable Victory !



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S. 14. In the *Wilderness*, he met with *Difficulties*; For besides the Loss of Houses, I verse Times by *Fire*, which yet he bore with such a Cheerful Submission, that Once One that met him on the Road, informing of him, Sir, I have sad News for you; while you have been abroad, your House is burnt! His first Answer was, Blessed God: He has burnt this House, because He intends to Give me a Better! (which accordingly came to pass;) he was also put upon Complying with the Inclinations of his *Eldest Son* to Travel; who accordingly Travelled, first into *Holland*, then into *Italy*, where he proceeded a *Doctor of Physick*, and so Returned into *England*, Excellently well Adorned with all the Accomplishments of a most Pious and Useful Gentleman. But this Worthful Person Dyed, about the year 1658. And he hastened the Death of his Mother, ere the year came about; which more than Doubled the Grief of his Father. And these Afflictions were further Embittered by the Death of his *Elddest Daughter*, Mrs. Rogers, in Child-bed with her first Child; at whose Interment, though he could not but Express a deal of Sorrow, yet he did so with so much Patience, that, In Token, he said, his Grounded & Joyful Hopes, to meet her again the Morning of the Resurrection, and of his Willingness to Resign her into the Hands of Him, who would make all Things work together for Good, he himself to



## The Life of

Spade, and threw in the First Shovelful of  
upon her. And not long after, he buried  
three or Four of his Grand-Children by another  
daughter Mrs. Danforth ( yet Living with her  
worthy Son-in-Law Edward Bromfield Esq. in  
London ) Whereof One Lying by the Walls, on a  
day of Publick Thanksgiving, this Holy man  
Preached a most Savoury Sermon, on Job  
1. *The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken  
away, Blessed be the Name of the Lord.* The next  
day, although so Weakly, that all Despaired of  
his Life, his Prophetical Grand Father, said, *Call  
me, John, I Believe in God, he shall Live, and be  
a Prophet too, and do God Service in his Genera-  
tion.* Which is, at this Day, fulfilled in Mr.  
John Danforth, the present Pastor to the Church  
Dorchester. Encountering with such, and ma-  
ny other Exercises, his years Rolled away, till he  
had Served New England, Three years before Mr.  
Norton's Coming over, Twenty years with him ;  
and years with Mr. Norton, and Four years after  
his death.

S. 15. In his Younger Time, he had been  
brought unto a more Methodical way of Preaching, and  
was therefore Admired above many, by no Less  
auditors than Dr. Goodwin, Mr. Burroughs, and  
Mr. Bridge, when they Travelled from Cambridge  
to Essex, on purpose to observe the Ministers  
of that County ; but after he became a Pastor,  
being joined with such Illuminating Teachers, he gave  
him-

## Mr. JOHN WILSON.

himself a Liberty, to *Preach* more after the *Primitive* Manner; without any Distinct *Propositions*, but Chiefly in *Exhortations* and *Admonitions* and Good wholesome *Counsels*, tending to Excite Good Motions, in the Minds of his Hearers; (but upon the same Texts that were Doctrinally handled by his Colleague instantly before:) and yet sometimes his Pastoral Discourses had such Spirit in them, that Mr. Shepard would say, *Mr. Wilson thinks I hear an Apostle, when I hear this Man*. Yea, even One of his *Ex Tempore* Sermons, has been since his Death, counted worthy to be Published unto the World. The Great Lecture of Boston, being disappointed of him, that should have Preached it, Mr. Wilson Preached the Lecture, on a Text occurring in the Chapter that had been read that Morning in his Family Jer. 29. 8. - *Neither hearken to you Dreams, which you cause to be Dreamed*; from whence he gave a Seasonable Warning, unto the People against the *Dreams*, wherewith sundry Sorts of *Opinionists*, had been Endeavouring to Seduce them. It was the Last Boston Lecture that ever he Preached (Nov. 16. 1665.) and one, who wrote after him, in *Short hand*, about a Dozen years after Published it. But his Last Sermon he Preached at Roxbury-Lecture, for his most Worthy Son in Law, Mr. Danforth; and after he had read his Text, which was in the Beginnings and Conclusions of sundry of the *Last Psalms*, with

Seraphica



## The Life of

raphical Voice, he added, *If I were sure this were the Last Sermon that ever I should Preach, and these the Last Words that ever I should Speak, yet I should still say, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord!* Thus he Ended his Ministry on Earth, as he Began his Possession of Heaven, with *Hallelujahs*.

S. 16. Indeed, if the Picture of this Good, and therein Great Man, were to be exactly given, Great Zeal, with Great Love, would be the Two principal Strokes, that joined with Orthodoxy, would make up his Pourtraiture. He had the Zeal of a Phineas, I had almost said, of a Seraphim, in Testifying against every Thing that he thought Offensive unto God. The Opinionists, which attempted at any Time, to Debase the Scripture, or Confound the Order, embraced in our Churches, underwent the most pungent Animadversions of this his Devout Zeal; whence, when a certain Assembly of People, which he approved not, had set up in Boston, he charged all his Family, that they should never Dare, so much as Once to enter into that Assembly; I charge you, said he, *That you do not Once Go to Hear them; for whatsoever they may pretend, they will Rob you of Ordinances, Rob you of your Souls, Rob you of your God.* But though he were thus, like John, a Son of Thunder, against Seducers, yet he was like that Blessed, and Beloved Apostle also, all

## Mr. JOHN WILSON.

all made up of *Love*. He was full of *Affection* and ready to help and Relieve, and Comfort the *Distressed*; His *House* was Renowned for *Hospitality*, and his *Purse* was continually emptying self into the hands of the *Needy*: From which Disposition of *Love* in him, there once happened this Passage; When he was Beholding a Great Muster of Souldiers, a Gentleman, then present said unto him, *Sir, I'll tell you a Great Thing; here's a mighty body of People, and there is not SEVEN of them all, but what Loves Mr. Wilson;* but the Gracious man presently and pleasantly replyed *Sir, I'll tell you as Good a Thing as that, here's a mighty Body of People, and there is not so much ONE of them all, but Mr. Wilson Loves him.* Then he did, by his own Exemple, notably Preach that Lesson, which a Gentleman found, in the *Anagram* of his Name, *With no One Ill*. And thus did he Continue, to, Do Every One Good until his Death gave the same Gentleman Occasion thus to Elegize upon him:

Now may Celestial Spirits Sing yet Higher,  
Since one more's added to their Sacred Choir  
**WILSON** the *Holy*, whose Good Name doth fit  
In Language Sweet, bid us [ *With no one Ill*

§. 17. He was One, that Consulting not only his own Edification, but the Encouragement of the Ministry, and of Religion, with an Indig-



able Diligence Visited the Congregations of the Neighbouring Towns, at their *Weekly Lectures*, until the Weaknesses of *Old Age* rendered him Incapable. And it was a delightful Thing, then see upon every Recurring Opportunity, a large company of Christians, and even *Magistrates* and *Ministers* among them; and Mr. *Wilson* in the lead of them, Visiting the *Lectures* in all the Vi-  
nages, with such Heavenly Discourses on the road, as caused the Hearts of the Disciples, to turn within them: and indeed it was Remark'd; that though the Christians Then Spent Less Time, in the *Shop*, or *Field*, than they do Now, yet they did in Both prosper more. But for Mr. *Wilson*, I am saying, That a *Lecture* was a *Treasure* unto him; he Priz'd it, he Sought it, until *Old Age* Length brought with it a *Sickness*, which a long while confined him. In this Illness, he took a Solemn Farewel of the *Ministers*, who had their *Weekly Meetings*, at his *Hospitable House*, and were now come together from all parts, at the Anniversary *Election* for the Government of the Colony. They asked him, to declare Solemnly, what he thought might be the *Sins*, which provoked the Displeasure of God against the country. Whereto his Answer was, *I have long* *learned several Sins*; Whereof, One, he said, was *Praribism*; "That is, when People rise up as *Corab* against their *Ministers*, as if they took too much upon them, when indeed they do but

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“ Rule for Christ, and according to Christ  
 “ yet it is nothing for a Brother to stand up  
 “ and Oppose, without Scripture, or Reason, the  
 “ Word of an Elder, saying [ *I am not Satisfied !*  
 “ And hence, if he do not like the Administra-  
 “ tion ( be it *Baptism* or the Like ) he will turn  
 “ his back upon God and His Ordinances, and  
 “ Go away. And for our Neglect of *Baptizing*  
 “ the Children of the Church, those that some  
 “ call *Grand-children*, I think God is provoked by  
 “ it. Another Sin ( *said he* ) I take, to be the  
 “ making Light of, and not Subjecting to the  
 “ Authority of *Synods*, without which the  
 “ Churches cannot long Subsist.

S. 18. Afterwards, having Solemnly with  
 Prayer, and Particularly and very Prophetically  
 Blessed his Relations and Attendants, he now thus  
 comforted himself, *I shall e're Long be with my Old*  
*Friends*, Dr. Preston, Dr. Sibs, Dr. Taylor, Dr.  
 Gouge, Dr. Ames, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Norton, my  
*Inns of Court Friends*, and my Consort, Children,  
*Grand-children in the Kingdom of God*. And when  
 some then present, magnified God, for making him  
 a Man of such Use, and Lamented themselves, in  
 their own Loss of him, he replied, *Alas, Alas ;*  
*Use no such Words concerning me ; for I have been*  
*an Unprofitable Servant, not worthy to be called a*  
*Servant of the Lord : but I must say, The Lord be*  
*merciful to me a Sinner, and I must say, Let Thy*  
 Tender



## The Life of

tender Mercies come unto me, O Lord, Even  
 by Salvation according to Thy Word. The  
 evening before he Dyed, his Daughter asking  
 him, Sir, *How do you Do?* he held up his Hand,  
 and said, *Vanishing Things! Vanishing Things!* But  
 he then made a most affectionate Prayer, with  
 and for his Friends; and so Quietly *Fell Asleep*  
 on August 7. 1667. in the Seventy ninth year of  
 his Age. Thus Expired that Reverend Old  
 man: of whom, when he left *England*, an Eminent  
 Personage said, *New-England, shall Flourish,*  
*free from all General Desolations, as long as that Good*  
*man Liveth in it!* Which was Comfortably  
 accomplished. He was *Interr'd* with more than  
 Ordinary Solemnity; and his Neighbour, Mr.  
*Richard Mather* of *Dorchester*, thereat Lamented  
 the Publick Loss in his Departure, with a Sermon  
 upon *Zech. 1. 5.* *Your Fathers where are they, and*  
*the Prophets, do they Live for ever?*

§. 19. Being a *Man of Prayer*, he was very  
 much a *Man of God*; and a certain Prophetical  
*Afflatus*, which often directs the *Speeches* of such  
*men*, did sometimes Remarkably appear in the  
*Speeches* of this Holy Man. Instances hereof  
 have been already given. A few more shall  
 now be added.

Beholding a Young man, Extraordinarily Du-  
 tiful in all possible wayes of being Serviceable,  
 unto his Aged Mother, then Weak in Body, and Poor  
 in

## Mr. JOHN WILSON.

in Estate, he, declared unto some of his Family what he had Beheld; adding therewithal, *I charge you to take notice of what I say; God will certainly Bless that Young man; John Hull (for that was his Name) shall grow Rich, and Live to do Good Service in his Generation!* It came to pass accordingly, That this Exemplary Person, became a very Rich, as well as Emphatically a Good Man, and afterwards Dyed a Magistrate of the Colony.

When one Mr. Adams, who waited on him from Hartford unto Weathersfield, was followed with the news of his Daughters being fallen suddenly and doubtfully Sick, Mr. Wilson, looking up to Heaven, began mightily to Wrestle with God for the Life of the Young woman: Lord (said he) wilt thou now take away thy Servants Child, while thou seest he is attending on thy Poor unworthy Servant in most Christian Kindness; Oh! do it not. And then turning himself about unto Mr. Adams Brother (said he) I trust your Daughter shall Live. I believe in God She shall Recover of this Sickness. And so it marvellously came to pass, and She was now the fruitful Mother of several desirable Children.

A Pequot-Indian, in a Canoo, was espied by the English, within Gun-shot, carrying away an English-Maid, with a Design to Destroy her, or Abuse her. The Souldiers, fearing to kill the Maid if they shot at the Indian, asked Mr. Wilson

Count



## The Life of

Counsel, who forbad them to Fear, and assured them, *God will direct the Bullets* ; They Shot accordingly ; and killed the *Indian*, though then moving swiftly upon the Water, and saved the *Maid* free from all harm whatever.

Upon the Death of the first and only Child (being an Infant ) of his Daughter Mrs. *Danforth*, he made a Poem, wherein were these Lines among the rest,

What if they part with their beloved one,  
Their *first Begotten*, and their *Only Son* ?  
What's this to that which Father *Abram* Suffer'd,  
When his own hands his *Only Darling* offer'd,  
In whom was bound up all his joy in this  
Life present, and his hope of future Bliss ?  
And what if God their *Other Children* Call,  
*Second, Third, Fourth*, suppose it should be All ?  
What's this to Holy *Job*, his trials sad,  
Who neither *these* nor *other* comforts had ?  
His *Life* was only given him for a Prey,  
Yet all his Troubles were to Heaven the way ;  
Yea to far *Greater Blessings* on the Earth,  
The Lord rewarding all his *Tears* with *Mirth*.

And behold, as if that he had been a *Vates*, in both Senses of it, a *Poet*, and a *Prophet*, it pleas'd God afterwards, to give his Daughter, a *Second, Third*, and a *Fourth* Child, and then to take them all away at once, even in one *Fortnight's* Time ;

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Time ; but afterwards, happily to make up  
the Loss.

Once passing over the *Ferry* unto a *Lecture*, on  
the other side of the Water, he took notice of  
a Young man in the Boat, that Worded it very  
unhandsomely unto his Aged *Father* : whereupon  
this Faithful *Seer*, being much Troubled, said un-  
to him, *Young man*, I advise you to Repent of your  
*Undutiful* *Rebellious* *Carriage* towards your *Father* :  
I expect else to hear, that God has cut you off, before  
a *Twelve month* come to an End ! And before this  
time expired, it came to pass, that this unhappy  
Youth, going to the Southward, was there Hack'd  
in pieces, by the *Pequod* Indians.

A Company of People in this Country, were  
mighty hot upon a Project of Removing to *Pro-  
vidence*, an Island in the *West Indies* ; and a Vene-  
rable *Assembly* of the Chief *Magistrates*, and *Min-  
isters* in the Colony, was address'd for their  
*Council* about this undertaking ; which *Assembly*  
laid before the Company very weighty Reasons to  
Disswade them from it. A Prime Ringleader  
in that Business, was One *Venner* a Cooper of *Sal-  
lem*, the Mad Blade, that afterwards perished in  
a Nonsensical Uproar, which he, with a Crew of  
*Bedlamites*, possessed like himself, made in *London*.  
This *Venner*, with some others, now stood up  
and said, That notwithstanding, what had been Offer-  
ed, they were clear in their Call to Remove : Where-  
upon, Mr. *Wilson* stood up and answered, Ay, De-



## The Life of

you come to Ask Counsel in so weighty a matter as this, and to have Help from an Ordinance of God in it? and are you aforehand Resolved, that you will Go on? Well, you may Go, if you will; but you shall not prosper. What? Do you make a Mock of Gods Ordinance? And it came to pass accordingly; The Enterprize was, not long after, dashed in pieces; and Venners precipitating Impulses, afterwards carried him to a miserable End.

A Council sitting at a Town, where some Ecclesiastical Differences called for the Assistances of the Neighbours to Compose them, there was one man, observed by Mr. Wilson, to be extreamly perverse, and most Unreasonably Troublesome, and Milchievous, to the Peace of the Church there; Whereupon Mr. Wilson told the Council, he was confident, That the Jealousy of God would set a Mark upon that Man, and that the Ordinary Death of men should not befall him. It happened shortly after, that the man was barbarously Butchered by the Salvages!

While Mr. Wilson was Minister of Sudbury in England, there was a Noted Person, who had been absent, for some while among the Papists. This man Returning Home, Offered himself to the Communion; whereat Mr. Wilson, in the open Assembly Spoke unto him after this manner; "Brother, you, here, present your self, as if you would partake in the Holy Supper of the Lord. You cannot be Ignorant of what you have

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

“ have done in withdrawing your self from  
“ Communion, and how you have been m  
“ conversant, for a Considerable while, with  
“ Papists, whose Religion is Antichristian. The  
“ fore, though we cannot so absolutely Cha  
“ you, God knows, who is the Searcher of  
“ Hearts ; and it you have Defiled your  
“ with their Worship and Way, and not Repen  
“ ed of it, by offering to partake, at this Tim  
“ in the Holy Supper with us, you will Eat, a  
“ Drink your own Damnation ; but if you  
“ clear, and have nothing wherewith to cha  
“ your self ; you your self know ; upon t  
“ Account you may Receive. The man  
then partake at the *Lords Table*, professing  
Innocency. But as if the *Devil had enter  
into him*, he soon went and *Hanged himself*.

In the Circumstances of his own Children,  
saw many Effects of an *Extraordinary Faith*.

His Eldest Son, *Edmund*, while Travelling in  
the Countries, which the Bloody Popish Inquisi  
on, has made a Clime too *Torrid* for a *Protestan*  
was Extreamly Exposed : but the Prayers of t  
Young Gentlemans continually Distressed Fath  
for him, were answered, with Signal Preserva  
ons. When he was under Examination by t  
Inquisitors, a Friend of the Chief among them  
suddenly arrived ; and the Inquisitor not havin  
seen this Friend for many years before, w



by so diverted and mollified, that he carried the Young Mr. *Wilson* to Dinner with him; though he had passed hitherto *Unknown* by True Name, yet this Inquisitor could now find him, to his great Surprise, by the Name, of *Wilson*, and report unto him the Character of his Father, and his Fathers Industry in Serving the Hereticks of *New-England*. But, that which I here most of all design, is an Account of nothing yet more Memorable and Unaccountable.

For, at another Time, his Father Dreamt himself Transported into *Italy*, where he saw a beautiful Person in the Sons Chamber, Endeavouring, with a thousand *Enchantments* to debauch him; whereupon the Old Gentleman made, and was by his Bed-fellow overheard making, first, Prayers to God full of Agony, and then Warnings to his Tempted Son, to Beware of Defiling himself with the Daughter of a Strange God. Now, the Considerable while after this, the Young Gentleman Writes to his Father, that on such a Night, (which was upon Enquiry found the very same Night,) a Gentlewoman had caressed him, thus and so (just according to the Vision,) and that his Chastity had been Conquered, if he had not been Strongly Possessed with a Sense of his Fathers Prayers over him, and Warnings unto him, for his Escape from the Pits, whereinto he had fallen the Abhorred of the Lord.

His other Son, *John*, When a Child, fell upon his

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## Mr. JOHN WILSON.

his Head from a Loft, Four Stories high, in the Street ; from whence he was taken up Dead, and so battered and bruised and bloody with his Fall, that it struck Horror into the Holders : but Mr. *Wilson* had a Wonderful Return of his Prayers, in the Recovery of the Child, both unto *Life*, and unto *Sense* ; in such much, that he continued unto *Old Age*, a Faithful, Painful, Useful Minister of the Gospel ; and but lately went from the Service of the Church in *Medfield*, unto the Glory of the Church Triumphant.

After Mr. *Wilson's* arrival at *New-England*, his Wite, who had Left off bearing of Children for many years, brought him another Daughter, which *Lamb*, was indeed unto him, as a Daughter, and he would present her unto other Ministers for their Blessing, with Great Affection, Saying *This is my New-England Token !* But this Child fell Sick of a *Malignant Feaver*, wherein She was gone so far, that every one despaired of her Life ; Except her Father, who called in several Ministers, with other Christians, unto a *Fast*, on that Occasion ; and hearing the Prayers of Mr. *Cotton* for her, found his Heart so Raised, that he Confidently declared, *While I heard, Mr. Cotton at Prayer, I was Confident the Child should Live !* And the Child accordingly did Live ; yea, She is to this Day alive, a very Holy Woman, Adorned, like them of Old Time, with a Spirit of Great Price !



## The Life of

The *Blessings* Pronounced by Mr. *Wilson*, upon many Persons and Affayrs, were observed so *prophectical*, and especially his Death-bed Blessings upon his Children and Grand-children were so, that the most Considerable Persons in the County, thought it not much, to come from far, and bring their Children with them, for the Enjoyment of his *Patriarchal Benedictions*. For which cause, Mr. *Thomas Shepard*, in an *Elegy* upon him, at his Death, Pathetically thus Expressed it ;

Who so of *Abraham*, *Moses*, *Samuel*, Reads,  
Or of *Elijah's* or *Elisha's* Deeds,  
Would surely say, Their Spirit and Power was his,  
And think there were a *Metempsychosis*.  
As Aged *John*, th' Apostle us'd to Bless  
The People, which they Judg'd their Happiness,  
So did we count it worth our *Pilgrimage*  
Unto him for his *Blessing*, in his Age.

These were *Extraordinary Passages* ; Many of them, are Things, which Ordinary Christians may more safely Ponder, and Wonder, than Expect, in Our Dayes ! Though sometimes Great Reformers, and Great Sufferers, must be Signalized with them. I know very well, what *Livy* sayes, *Datur hæc Venia Antiquitati, ut miscendo Humana Divinis, Primordia Urbium Augustiora faciat* : but I have been far from Imposing the Least

*Fable*

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

*Fable upon the World in Reporting such Extraordinary Passages of Mr. Wilson, or any other Great Confessor, by whom the Beginnings of the Country were made Illustrious; there are Wonders Enough, yet Living, of them.*

S. 20. There is a certain Little Sport Wit, in *Anagrammatizing* the Names of Men which was used as long ago at Least as the Day of Old *Lycophron*: and which sometimes has afforded Reflections very *Monitory*, as *Alstedius* his just Admirers changed into *Sedulitas*, very *Satyrical*, as when, *Satan Ruleth me*, was found in the Transposed Name of a certain Active Persecutor: and when, *Lo, a Damned Creature* was found in the Name of One that made a Figure, among the Popish Plotters against the Nation. Yea, 'Tis possible, that they who affect such *Grammatical Curiosities*, will be willing to plead a *Prescription*, of much Higher and Elder Antiquity for them; Even the *Temurah*, or, *Mutation*, with which the Jewes do Criticise upon the Oracles of the *Old Testament*. There, they say You'll find the *Anagram* of our First Fathers Name *Ha adam*, to express *Adamah*, the Name of the *Earth*, whence he had his Original. An *Anagram*, of a Good Signification, they'll show you [ *Gen. 6. 8.* ] and of a Bad one [ *Gen. 38. 7.* ] those Glorious Oracles; and they will Endeavour to perswade you, that *Maleachi* in *Exodus* is Anagrammatica



## The Life of

mmatically Expounded *Michael*, in *Daniel*.  
of all the *Anagrammatizers* that have been  
ving their *Fancies*, for the Two Thousand  
rs which have Run out, since the Dayes of  
*ophron*, yea, or for the more than Five Thou-  
d, since the Dayes of our *First Father*, I be-  
e there never was Man, that made so many,  
so nimbly, as our *Mr. Wilson*; who, together  
h his *Quick Turns*, upon the Names of his  
ends, would Ordinarily Fetch, and rather than  
e, would even Force, Devout *Instructions* out of  
*Anagrams*. As once, upon Hearing my Fa-  
r Preach a Sermon about, *The Glories of our*  
*rd Jesus Christ*, *Mr. Wilson* immediatly gave  
n that *Anagram* upon his Name, *Crescentius*  
*atherus*, Anagr. *En ! Christus Merces tua* : So,  
ere could Scarcely occur the Name of any  
emarkable Person, at least, on any Remarkable  
casion unto him, without an *Anagram* Raised  
ereupon ; and he made this Poetical, and  
culiar, Disposition of his Ingenuity, a Subject  
hereon he Grafted *Thoughts* far more Solid  
d Solemn and Useful, than the *Stock* it self.  
herefore methoughts, it Looked like a Piece  
*Injustice*, that his Own Funeral produced  
among the many *Poems* afterwards Printed )  
more *Anagrams* upon his Name, who had  
often thus Handled the Names of Others ; and  
me Thought the *Muses* Look'd very much Disfa-  
fied, when they saw these Lines upon his Hearse.

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Mr. JOHN WILSON.

JOHN WILSON

Anagr.

John Wilson.

*Oh! Change it not ; No Sweeter Name or Thing  
Throughout the World, within our Ears shall Ring.*

There was a Little more of Humour, in the  
Fancy of Mr. *Ward*, the Well-known Simple Col-  
ler of Agawam, as that *Witty Writer* Styled him-  
self, who observing the Great *Hospitality* of Mr.  
*Wilson*, in Conjunction with his *Meta-grammatism*  
Temper, said, *That the Anagram of JOHN WIL-*  
*SON was, I PRAY, COME IN, YOU ARE*  
*HEARTILY WELCOME.*

To make up this Want, I might conclude the  
*Life* of this Good man, with an *Anagram*, which  
he Left on, and for himself.

*Johannes Wilsonus.*

Anagr:

*In uno Jesu, nos Salvi.*

*Vel*

*Non in uno Jesu Salus?*

*An non in Jesu, Credentium, figitur, uno,  
Tota Salus? Hic est, Hic Sita Tota Salus.*



## The Life of

S. 21. But it is to the *Last Place* in our History of *this* Worthy Man, that I reserve that part of his Character, which lay in his Disposition to allot unto *Himself* the *Last Place* among Worthy Men; for his *Low* Opinion of himself, was the *Top* of all his other Excellencies. His *Humility* not only caused him, to prefer the meanest of his *Brethren*, above himself, but also to Comply with the meanest Opportunities of being Serviceable: Hence t'was, that when his Voice in his Age did so fail him, that his Great Congregation could be no longer Edited by his *Publick Labours*, he Cheerfully and Painfully set himself to do all the Good, that he could by his *Private Visits*; and such also, as he could not reach with *Sermons*, he often found with *Verbes*: Hence t'was, that when that plea was used with the Church of *Ipswich* to resign Mr. *Norton* unto the Church of *Boston*, after the Death of Mr. *Cotton*; Because it was said, *Let him that bath two Coats give to him that bath None*; and a Person of Quality replied, *Boston bath One*, [ meaning Mr. *Wilson*: ] this Good man answered; *Who? Me! I am Nothing!* Yea, Hence t'was, that when Malefactors had been openly Scourged upon the Just Sentence of Authority, he would presently send for them to his House, and having first expressed his Bounty to them, he would then bestow upon them such gracious Admonitions

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

tions and Exhortations, as made them to become instead of *Desperate*, remarkably *Penitent*. Indeed I know not whether his *Humility*, might have some *Excess*, in some Instances charged on it ; at least Once, when he had Promised to a Neighbouring Minister, to Preach a Sermon for him, and after his Promise came in Season to that Minister, saying, Sir, I told you, that I would Preach for you, but it was rashly done of me. I have on my knees begg'd the Pardon of it, from the Lord ; That I should offer thus to deprive His People of your Labours, which are so much better than of mine can be : Wherefore, Sir, I now come Seasonably to tell you, that I shall fail you ! And accordingly, there was no perswading of him to the contrary.

But from the like *Humility* it was, That a Gentleman, of his, who deserves to Live in the same Story, as he now Lives in the same Heaven with him, namely Mr. Edward Rawson, Honoured Secretary of the Massachusetts-Colony could not by all his Intreaties perswade him, let his Picture be drawn ; but still refusing he would reply, What ! Such a Poor, Vile Creature as I am ! shall my Picture be drawn ? I say, No it never shall ! And when that Gentleman introduced the Limner, with all things ready, Vehemently importuning him to gratify for the Desires of his Friends, as to sit a while for the taking of his Effigies, no Importun-



## The Life of

uld ever obtain it from him. However,  
ing bound in *Justice* to Employ *my Hand*,  
the Memory of that Person, by *whose Hand*  
was my self Baptised, I have made an Essay,  
draw his *Picture*, by this Account of his  
e; wherein if I have missed of doing to  
Life, it might be made up, with several  
pressive Passages, which I find in *Elegies*  
ritten and Printed upon his *Death*: Whereof  
ere were many Composed, by those, whose  
inion was well Signified by one of them:

Sure *Verseless* he does Mean, to's Grave to Go,  
And well deserves, that now no *Verse* can show.

But Waving the rest, Let the following POEM,  
ver before Printed, Offer some ODOURS,  
the Readers further Entertainment.

### Some OFFERS

To Embalm the MEMORY of the  
Truly

everend and Renowned,  
**JOHN WILSON**;

The First Pastor of *Boston*, in *New England*;  
Interr'd ( and a Great Part of his Countries  
Glory with him ) *August. 11. 1667*. Aged, 79.

Might

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

**M**ight *Aarons Rod* (such *Funerals* mayn't be Dr  
But broach the *Rock*, t'would gush pure *Eleg*  
To round the *Wilderness* with purling *Laves*,  
And tell the *World*, the Great Saint **WILSON**  
Praise.

Here's ONE, (*Pearls* are not in great clusters found  
Here's ONE, the *Skill* of *Tongues* and *Arts* has  
Crown'd ;

Here's ONE (by frequent *Martyrdom* t'was Try'd  
That could forego *Skill*, *Pelf*, and *Life* beside,  
For **CHRIST** : Both **ENGLANDS** *Darling*, whom  
in *Swarms*

They Press'd to See, and Hear, and felt his *Charms*

Tis ONE, ( when will it Rise to Number Two :  
The *World* at once can but ONE *Phoenix* Show :  
For *Truth*, a **PAUL** ; **CEPHAS**, for *Zeal* ; for *Love*,  
A **JOHN** ; inspir'd by the *Celestial Dove*.  
**ABRA'MS** true Son for *Faith* ; and in his *Tent*  
*Angels* oft had their *Table* and *Content*.

So *Humble*, that alike on's *Charity*,  
Wrought *Extract Gent* : with *Extract Rudij*.  
Pardon this *Fault* ; his Great *Excess* lay there,  
He'd Trade for *Heaven*, with all he came anear ;  
His *Meat*, *Clotbes*, *Cash*, heed still for *Ventures* send  
Consign'd, Per Brother *Lazarus*, his Friend.

Mighty



## The Life of

ghty in Prayer; his Hand Uplifted reach'd  
Mercies High Throne, and thence strange Bounties  
fetch'd,

once and again, and oft: So felt by all,  
Who Weep his Death, as a Departing Paul.  
ll; Yea, Baptis'd with Tears, Lo, Children come,  
Their Baptism he maintain'd! ) unto his Tomb.

'twixt an Apostle, and Evangelist,  
let stand his Order in the Heavenly List.  
Had we the Costly Alabaster Box,  
What's Left, wee'd spend on this New-English  
KNOX;

True Knox, fill'd with that Great Reformers Grace,  
In Truths Just cause, fearing no Mortals Face.

Christ's Word, it was his Life, Christ's Church, his Care;  
And so Great with him his Least Brethren were,  
Not Heat, nor Cold, not Rain, or Frost, or Snow  
Could hinder, but he'd to their Sermons go:  
Aarons Bells chim'd from far, he'd Run, and then  
His Ravish'd Soul Echo'd, AMEN, AMEN!

He travell'd oft the fierce Atlantic Sea,  
But, Patmos of Confessors, t'was for THEE.  
This Voyage Lands him on the Wished shore,  
From Whence this Father will return no more,  
To sit the Moderator of thy Sages.  
But, Tell his Zeal for thee, to After-Ages,

His

Mr. JOHN WILSON.

His Care to Guide his *Flock*, and feed his *Lambs*  
By *Words*, *Works*, *Prayers*, *Psalms*, *Alms*, and

ANAGRAMS :

Those *Anagrams*, in which he made to Start  
Out of meer *Nothings*, by *Creating Art*,  
Whole *Worlds* of Counsil ; did to *Motes* Unfe  
*Names*, till they *Lessons* gave *Richer* than *Gold*  
And Every *Angle* so Exactly say,  
It should out-shine the brightest *Solar Ray*.

Sacred his *Verse*, Writ with a *Cherubs Quill* ;  
But those Wing'd *Choristers* of *Zion-Hill*,  
Pleas'd with the *Notes*, call'd him a part to bear  
With *Them*, where he his *Anagram* did hear,  
I Pray Come in, Heartily Welcome ; Sir

---

EPITAPHIUM.

Thinking, what EPITAPH, I should Offer  
unto the *Grave* of this Worthy Man, I call  
unto Mind, the fittest in the World, which  
was directed for him, immediately upon his  
*Death*, by an *Honourable Person*, who still  
Continu



## The Life of &c.

continues the same Lover, as well as Instance,  
Learning and Vertue, that he was, when  
Then advised them to give Mr. Wilson this

## E P I T A P H.

and now Abides FAITH, HOPE, & CHARITIE,  
at CHARITIE'S the Greatest of the Three.

To which this might be added, from  
another Hand,

*urea, quæ ( obstupeo referens ! ) Primævâ Vetustas  
Condedit Arcano, Sæcula Apostolica,  
Officijs, Donisque itidem Sanctissimus Heros,  
WILSONUS, tacitis Protulit Ex Tenebris.*

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E187.1 Checkley